

Issue NE-CW2902, released July 22, 2002, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov), Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending July 21, 2002, above normal temperatures and drought conditions continued to stress dryland and irrigated crops, pastures, and producers, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Soil moisture supplies continued to deteriorate throughout the week. Irrigation systems were in full use but in some cases struggled to keep up with crop demands. Continued availability of irrigation water remained a concern. In some locations, grasshoppers have moved from field borders into crops. Producer activities included irrigation, hay and small grain harvest, and livestock care.

This release is based on reports and data from county extension educators, FSA county directors, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. Weekly Weather and Crop reports back to 1947 and current county specific comments can be found at: <http://www.agr.state.ne.us/agstats/cropwthr.htm>

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures averaged from three to nine degrees above normals across the State. Isolated precipitation fell late Sunday and was significant in a few areas of the southwest and a half dozen east central counties.

**Field Crops Report:** All corn condition rated 31 percent good and excellent, the lowest since 1974. Irrigated corn condition declined and rated 49 percent good and excellent, below the five year average of 78. Dryland corn continued it’s decline and rated 5 percent good and excellent, far below the average of 61. The crop was 63 percent silked, slightly ahead of last year at 59 and average at 55. There were 8 percent of the fields in the dough stage by Sunday, ahead of last year at 4 and average at 3. Due to the lack of moisture and high temperatures, pollenation was a concern for dryland acres.

Soybean condition declined last week and rated 18 percent very poor, 31 poor, 35 fair, 14 good, and 2 excellent, well below last year and average. Seventy-two percent of the fields had bloomed,

a week ahead of last year’s 56 and a few days ahead of average at 62. In 16 percent of the fields, pods were being set, ahead of last year at 13 and average at 11.

Sorghum condition declined and rated 19 percent very poor, 37 poor, 37 fair, and 7 good, well below last year and average. Eleven percent of the fields had headed, a few days ahead of last year at 3 and average at 7.

Wheat harvest continued at a rapid pace with 93 percent harvested by week’s end, about a week ahead of last year at 67 and average at 78. Hot, dry weather continued to push harvest progress.

Oat harvest progressed to 81 percent complete, well ahead of last year at 54 and average at 51.

Dry bean fields had bloomed on 30 percent of the acreage, behind last year’s 36 and average at 43. Condition declined and rated 8 percent very poor, 24 poor, 36 fair, 28 good, and 4 excellent.

Alfalfa condition declined and rated 35 percent very poor, 36 poor, 20 fair, and 9 good, well below last year and average. Second cutting activities were 88 percent completed, ahead of last year at 78 and average at 77. Third cuttings were underway in southern and eastern districts but reports indicate many dryland producers harvested a short crop from their second cutting and expect little or no third cutting.

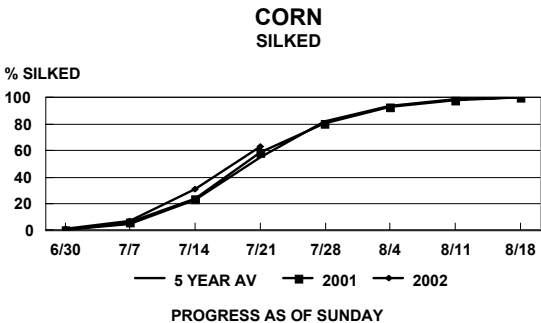
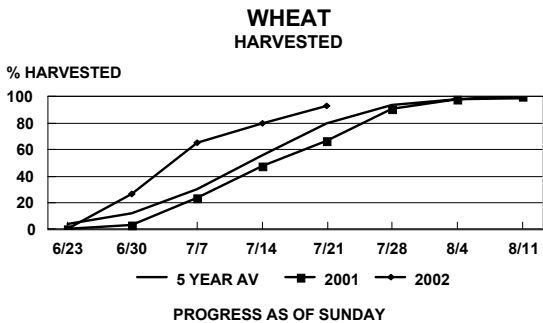
Wild hay condition rated 34 percent very poor, 32 poor, 29 fair, and 5 good.

**Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report:** Pasture and range conditions continue to decline and rated 49 percent very poor, 34 poor, 16 fair, and 1 good, well below average. Some producers were providing supplemental feedstuffs to livestock and others were culling deeper into their herds. The heat and dusty conditions have limited gains and caused health problems for livestock.

Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of July 21, 2002

Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Wheat Harvested	87	97	92	100	100	99	100	100	93	80	67	78
% Corn Silked	8	28	62	81	68	50	67	74	63	31	59	55
% Soybeans Blooming	<sup>1</sup>	90	67	69	73	52	78	74	72	50	56	62
% Soybeans Setting Pods	<sup>1</sup>	26	19	33	12	1	21	12	16	10	13	11
% Sorghum Headed	0	0	7	3	21	5	15	11	11	2	3	7
% Alfalfa 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cutting	47	88	97	98	98	92	95	100	88	73	78	77
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	7.0	7.0	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.7	5.8	6.1
Topsoil Moisture												
- % Very short	74	51	79	73	67	60	87	93	69	58	15	13
- % Short	22	30	16	15	28	23	13	7	22	28	32	33
- % Adequate	4	19	5	12	5	17	0	0	9	14	52	52
- % Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Subsoil Moisture												
- % Very Short	84	40	75	65	67	64	83	84	66	59	10	14
- % Short	15	30	24	33	29	25	17	16	24	30	35	27
- % Adequate	1	30	1	2	4	11	0	3	10	11	55	58
- % Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

<sup>1</sup> Data not available.



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Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.15	.02	.00	.00	.00	.01	.00	.00
Total since April 1	3.50	5.50	8.47	5.72	9.61	5.04	5.85	9.38
Normal since April 1	9.38	11.23	12.82	12.12	13.31	10.82	11.84	13.56
Total as % of normal	37%	49%	65%	47%	72%	46%	49%	69%

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,  
Week Ending Sunday, July 21, 2002**

Station		Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	100	59	78	5	162	1408	1346
	Scottsbluff	100	60	80	6	168	1498	1345
	Sidney	100	58	79	5	167	1486	1379
NC	Ainsworth	103	63	83	8	191	1601	1484
	Arthur	100	60	78	3	164	1475	1451
	O'Neill	106	62	84	9	192	1623	1557
NE	Concord	100	60	81	5	186	1653	1597
	Elgin	101	61	83	7	193	1660	1597
	West Point	101	59	81	3	180	1699	1691
C	Grand Island	101	62	81	5	187	1719	1619
	Lexington	102	62	83	7	191	1754	1590
	Ord	104	60	83	7	187	1673	1605
EC	Lincoln	104	68	86	7	208	1888	1777
	Central City	100	61	82	5	190	1738	1645
	Mead	102	62	83	5	193	1800	1752
SW	Champion	102	58	79	4	162	1587	1489
	North Platte	103	61	82	7	185	1653	1505
	Curtis	105	63	83	8	185	1684	1531
SC	Arapahoe	101	53	78	3	160	1502	1444
	Minden	101	61	81	5	181	1718	1596
	Red Cloud	106	65	85	9	197	1884	1639
SE	Beatrice	103	60	83	4	192	1829	1777
	Clay Center	104	58	80	4	179	1711	1635
	Nemaha	104	65	83	5	201	1916	1804

Source: High Plains Climate Center.